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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Ralph Rogier DE LA BRETONIÈRE

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

METHOD AND DEVICE
FOR PROTECTING
DATA COMMUNICATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, please replace specification pages 1-5, as originally filed, with pages 1-5a as filed in the Article 34 amendment of 17 January 2000.

Please also replace Claims 1-10 as originally filed, which appear on pages 10 and 11, with Claims 1-9, also filed in the Article 34 amendment of 17 January 2000. The replacement specification pages and the pages containing amended Claims 1-9 are marked "AMENDED SHEET" and are attached hereto. Following the insertion of Claims 1-9, please amend these claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, line 1, change "one of the preceding claims," to --claim 1,--.

Claim 6, line 1, cancel "or 5".